Clearance of customs prosecution cases

*131. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI;
SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI;

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether in view of a very large number of prosecution cases pertaining! to customs duty evasion pending in var-\ious courts of law. Government propose fo Set P special courts in consultation with the State Governments with a view to clearing th 3 cases expeditiously; and

(b) if so, what progress has been made in this direction so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA); (a) There is no proposal to set up special courts for economic offences exclusively for dealing with the customs duty evasion cases.

(b) Does not arise

Impact of new import/export policy

*132. SHRI N.E. BALARAM: Will the Mhrstcr of COMMENCE be ple?sed to tate;

(a) whether Government are aware that by permitting the import of copra, coconut oil, rubber, rubber products, clove, nutmeg, ciir and coir products under OGL following the announcement of the new, Impdrt|Export Policy, there has been a decline in the prices of these cash crops to the detriment of the agricultural economy of the States;

(b) 'whether the State Governments have made any requests td the' Centra! •Government • to withdraw permission for such imports;, and

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER -OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER . 0F COMMERCE (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI):
(a) to (c) Under the Import and Export Policy for Aprl 1988—March 1991, import of copra, coconut oil and natural rubber continues to be canalised as was in the earlier policy. There ;s no change in Import Policy for rubber products, ^. coir and coir products. Only cloves and nutmeg have been shifted from th$_e$ Canalised List k) the Open General Licence List. No request has so far been received by the Government for withdrawal of j permission for impolrt of these items. At present there is no proposal for change in the import policy for these items.

Plan to prevent the spread *ot* desert area

* 13 3 . PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware trnt ten States and the Union Territory of Delhi are likely to miss normal mon soons due to massive depletion of forests cover on the country's major mi-ntainr, '-'-ke the Himalayas, Aravalis and Western Ghats; if so, what steps Go vernment propose to take check such de forestation;

(b) what steps are being taken to prevent the spread of natural arid zones in Thar Desert in Rajasthan and the Ray-alaseenfa region of Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether Government contemplate a special plan to prevent the spread of desert area in the above mentioned pla ces; and

(d) if so, what are the details of such a special plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI):
(a) There is JJQ scientific evidence to stablish that depletion of forest cover causes disturbance to normal monsoons.

£0) A number of measures such as afforestation, pasture development, shelter belts, sand-dune stabilisation and water * conservation have been taken up under the Desert Development Programme, Drought Prone Are Programme, Integrated Rural "Development Programme ' and Na-

tional Wastelands Development Board to control spread of arid zones and deserts.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

IndfrSorlet *Trait*

134. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI; Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased state;

(a) what was the target fixed for the *Jtsa.T* 1987-88 jfo respect of Indo-Soviet trade;:

(b) wnether *the target'* was achieved Oj-whether there was any shortfall; and

(c) what, steps are being taken to increase the volume of trade between India and the U.S.S.R.?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE' (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI):
(a) to (c) Trade Plans for Indian exports to and imports from USSR are. drawn up on a calender year basis. The targetted Indo-Soviet trade turnover for 1987 was Rs, 3800 crores and the actual implementation is assessed to have crossed the target by about 18 per cent. The target for 1988 has been fixed at Rs.-5000 crores. Efforts are being made from both sides to achieve the target

A series of steps have been initiated to increase the' volume of trade between the two countries. These include expansion and diversification of items included in the trade basket, setting up of a group to study the mattter of diversification of . structure of • trade and economic cooperation, participation in trade fairs, organisation of specialised exhibitions, conducting studies and market surveys for promotion of trader identification . by* DGTD of possible areas for import "of technology, conclusion of an Tnter-Gbv-ernmental Agreement to promote new forms of cooperation such as joint ventures, production cooperation, cooperation !n the services sector, improving institutional lints at the level of business orp-frisations, 335 RS-7 , ,

Narmada Sagar Project

*135. SHRI CHANDRIKA PRASAD TRIPATHI: SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI:

Will the Minister of WATER . RESOURCES be pleased to state;

(a) whether the work on the Narmada Sagar Project m,, {Madhya Pradesh is going on as per schedule;

(b) whether Madhya Pradtsh Govern ment has requested the Central Govern ment for financial assistance for the pro ject; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and what is Government's reaction there to?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RE-SOURCES (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) According, to information received from ithe State Government, the work on the dam, formally started on 19th November, 1987, is proposed to he completed by June, 1996. '

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The projects in the irrigation sec tor are funded from State Plan resources. Central Plan Assistance is provided as block grant and loan and is not tied to any specific project However, this pro-' ject has -been posed to the World Bank for assistance.

Import of Gold

136. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEH TA Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state;

. 00 How much gold in terms of weight and value is imported into India every year by way of replenishment allowed against "export of gold, jewellery since the revised scheme' was announced in Aug-ust, 1985; .

(b) what are the details of the jewellery exported after the announcement of the revised scheme and the value there-